

# A Field Guide to the Common Fauna of Six Croatian Islands

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By Susannah Dragash





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Introduction: This field guide was created to highlight a total of thirty-six species of wildlife found on six large, frequently visited Croatian islands. This guide is not comprehensive, but provides accounts on some of the major avian, reptilian, and mammalian fauna found on the islands. The guide can serve as a reference for those touring or vacationing on the Croatian islands. The islands represented are Cres, Mljet, Hvar, Brijuni, Kornati, and Brac. Six different species are described for each island. Photographs of the animals and maps of their respective geographic distributions are included on each page.

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# CRES

## Common toad *Bufo bufo spinosus*



Photo by Laurent Lebois

**Habitat:** Found in terrestrial and freshwater environments, such as forests, underbrush, grasslands, damp areas with thick vegetation, arid areas; usually avoid open areas

**Diet:** Arthropods, mainly insects

**Classification:** Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Amphibia, Order Anura, Family Bufonidae

**Description:** About 10 cm long; skin is greenish brown and warty on back and cream colored with spots on belly (Reptiles & Amphibians, 2009)

**Geographic range:** Widespread in Europe and Middle East; fragmented distribution in Africa; native in Croatia



Map by Osado



## European tree frog

*Hyla hyla arborea*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Amphibia,  
Order Anura, Family Hylidae

Description: About 4 cm long, skin is smooth and bright green, yellow, or greenish-brown on the back and cream colored and granular on the belly; marked with dark lateral stripes from nostril to hip; possess pads on fingers and toes for adhesion (The Animal Files, 2014)

Habitat: Terrestrial, freshwater frog; found in open vegetative areas with broad-leaved plants and much sunlight, cultivated areas such as parks, vineyards, orchards; avoids dark, dense forests; can tolerate some dry areas

Diet: Insects, spiders, snails



Photo by Radoslav Kovatchev

Geographic range: Widespread in most of Europe, including Iberian Peninsula and Turkey; native in Croatia



Map by Osado

## Blue-throated keeled lizard

*Algyroides nigropunctatus nigropunctatus*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Reptilia, Order Squamata, Family Lacertidae

Description: Up to 25 cm long, scales on back keeled ("V" shaped), skin on back is light to reddish brown, white on belly, may have parallel rows of small black dots on back during mating season, males, and sometimes females, have bright blue throat during mating season (GBIF, 2015)

Geographic range: Eastern Adriatic coast from northeastern Italy and southern Slovenia to Greece, some Croatian islands, native in Croatia



Map by Carlosblh



Photo by Edo van Uchelen

Habitat: Terrestrial, found in open woodlands, shrubs, low vegetation, rock walls in urban areas, near water, can be found on rocks and cliffs, usually in shaded or semi-shaded areas, sometimes found basking in sunlight

Diet: Arthropods including spiders and insects (Polovic et al., 2013)

## European cat snake

*Telescopus fallax fallax*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Reptilia,  
Order Squamata, Family Colubridae

Description: Has triangular head,  
laterally compressed body, possesses  
mild venom that is not harmful to  
humans (Van Wallach, 2015), around  
100 cm long, skin is gray or light  
brown on the back with dark black  
transverse bars and black collar or  
marking behind head, belly is light  
colored, sometimes with dark blotches  
(Snakes of Croatia, n.d.)

Habitat: Terrestrial, found in rocky areas,  
shrubbery, sometimes sandy beaches

Diet: Lizards (Van Wallach, n.d.)



Photo by Petr Balej

Geographic range: Eastern Adriatic  
coast from northeast Italy to Greece,  
throughout Greece, Turkey, and parts  
of Middle East, native in Croatia



Map by Google Maps and TDWG



# Griffon vulture

*Gyps fulvus*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Aves, Order Accipitriformes, Family Accipitridae

Description: About 100 cm long, with wingspan of about 250 cm, head, neck, and collar covered with white down feathers, tail and wing feathers black, body feathers brown, has a weak beak (Large Herbivore Network, 2015)



Map from Wikipedia.org



Photo by Luc Viatour



Photo by Carlos Delgado

Geographic range: Found in the Middle East, Iberian Peninsula, sections throughout central Africa, southeastern Europe, India and into southern China, native in Croatia

Habitat: Terrestrial, found in large, open areas from mountains to semi-desert landscape

Diet: carrion, mostly large mammals



## European serin

*Serinus serinus*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Aves, Order Passeriformes, Family Fringillidae

Description: Small, brightly colored yellow bird, about 12 cm long with a 22 cm wingspan, stout bill, dark streaks on breast and back

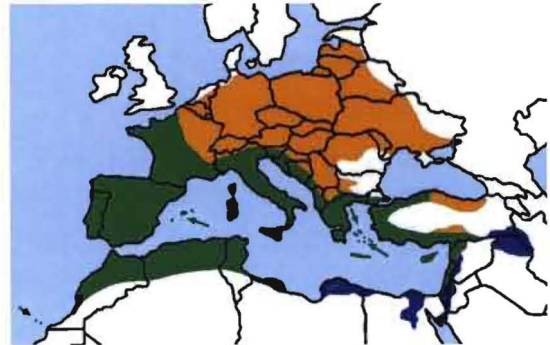
Habitat: Not well described. Mediterranean areas such as pine forests, orchards, vineyards (Senar and Copete, 2009), open areas, woodlands (Robinson, 2005)

Diet: Mainly seeds, sometimes invertebrates (Robinson, 2005)

Geographic range: Widespread in Europe down to northwestern Africa, fragmented distribution in Turkey, native in Croatia



Photo by Luis Garcia



Orange = summer, green = year-round, blue = winter

Map from Ulrich Prokop

# MLJET

## Sharp-snouted rock lizard

*Lacerta oxycephala*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Reptilia,  
Order Squamata, Family Lacertidae

Description: Can either be gray-beige with tail striped transversely with black and turquoise (lowland regions), or almost completely black (upland regions, offshore islands), skin is blue on belly in adults, can be more vibrant in male, has pointed snout, pair of wide scales under tail (Arnold and Ovenden, 2002)

Habitat: Terrestrial, found in rocky areas and on cliffs, on walls in villages and houses, sunny areas

Diet: Insects

Geographic range: Found in southern Croatia including some islands, southern Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, possibly Albania, native in Croatia



Photo by Guillaume Lemoine



Map from IUCN Red List

## Broad-toothed field mouse

*Apodemus mystacinus*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Mammalia,  
Order Rodentia, Family Muridae

Description: Fur on back is gray, may  
have reddish or yellowish tint, fur on  
belly is light colored or white (Colak  
et al., 2003)

Habitat: Found in rocky areas, forests  
with little grass or shrub cover

Diet: Grains, pine seeds, acorns,  
carob pods, snails, insects



Photo by Kaya Faresi



Map from IUCN Red List

Geographic range: Found in some  
Aegean islands, Turkey, Georgia,  
Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Syria, northern  
Iraq, introduced in Croatia



# Common hoopoe

*Upupa epops*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Aves, Order Bucerotiformes, Family Upupidae

Description: Pale brown feathers on back, pinkish feathers on belly, crested with black tips on crest feathers, wing and tail feathers black with white markings, primary feathers have white bands, long, slender bill and short legs (Planet of Birds, 2015)

Geographic range: Widespread throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa, native in Croatia

Habitat: Found in deciduous woods, areas with low grasses and shrubs (Barbaro et al., 2009)

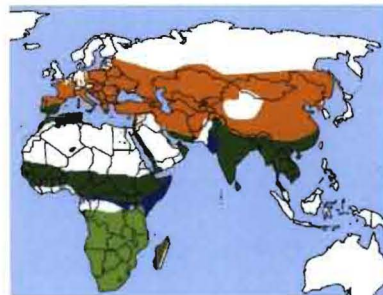
Diet: Slugs, worms, insects, sometimes lizards (Fournier and Arelettaz, 2001)



Photo by Jari Peltomäki



Photo by Jari Peltomäki



Orange = nesting, green = resident, blue = winter

Map by Ulrich Prokop



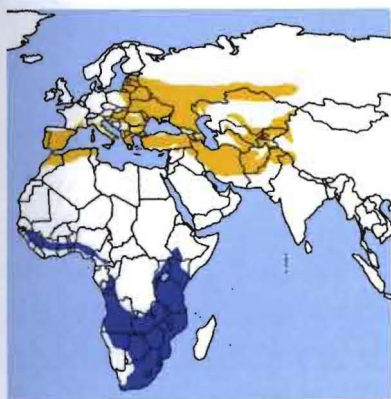
# European roller

*Coracias garrulus*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Aves, Order Coraciiformes, Family Coraciidae

Description: Light blue head, throat, and breast region, light brownish rust colored back and wing feathers, black tips on wings, dark band from bill through eyes (Kovacs et al., 2008)

Geographic range: Found in eastern Europe, southern Spain, southern Africa, much of the Middle East, southwest Asia, southwest Russia, native in Croatia



Map from Wikimedia.org



Photo by Zahorec Pavel

Habitat: lowland open Mediterranean countryside, oak and pine woodlands, cultivated areas such as orchards and farmlands, river valleys, open clearings with scattered leafy or thorny trees, is migratory - spends summers in steppes and temperate regions

Diet: Invertebrates, hard insects, occasionally fruit, sometimes even frogs, lizards, snakes, small mammals (Kovacs et al., 2008)

## Balkan whip snake

*Hierophis gemonensis*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Reptilia,  
Order Squamata, Family Colubridae

Description: Up to 1 meter long, has  
small black, white, gray, brown, and  
red spots starting at base of neck and  
continuing halfway down back,  
remainder of body is solid brown,  
skin on belly is yellowish, snake is  
non-venomous

Geographic range: Eastern Europe  
southward to Greece, including many  
Mediterranean and Adriatic islands,  
native in Croatia



Map from IUCN Red List



Photo by J-P Vacher

Habitat: Terrestrial, found in rocky, dry,  
shrubby areas, vineyards, olive groves,  
open woodlands, rural areas, stone ruins

Diet: Lizards, arthropods, some small  
mammals

# Brown big-eared bat

*Plecotus auritus*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Mammalia,  
Order Chiroptera, Family  
Vespertilionidae

Description: Small bat with silky,  
brown fur on back and grayish brown  
fur on belly, large ears almost as long  
as body, during flight, they fly with  
ears erect, and at rest, ears curl  
sideways resembling ram's horn  
(Thompson, 2002)

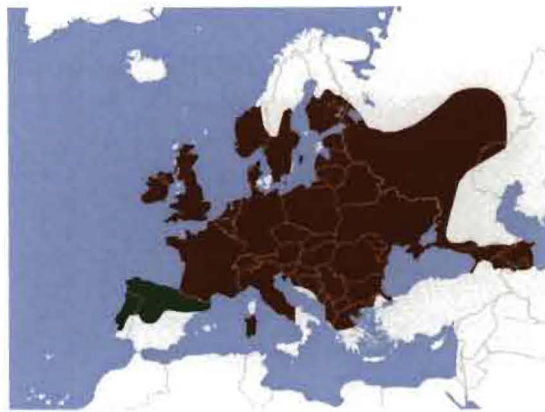
Geographic range: Endemic to  
Europe, native in Croatia, patchy  
distribution in Iberian peninsula and  
Italy

Habitat: Deciduous and coniferous forests,  
isolated trees in parks and gardens,  
hedgerows, spends summers roosting in  
colonies in buildings, tree holes, and bat  
boxes, spends winters hibernating in  
caves, mines, buildings, sometimes trees

Diet: Moths and flies



Photo by Dragisa Savic



Different colors denote different subspecies  
Map by Aulgier and IUCN Red List



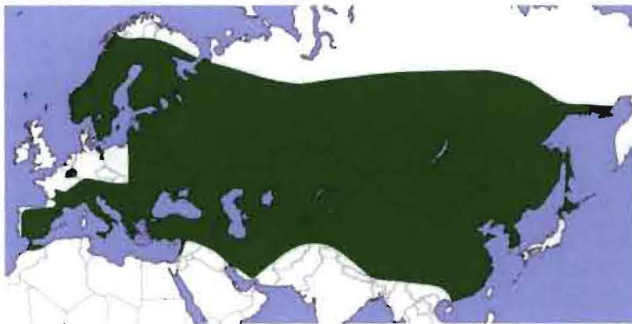
# HVAR

## Eurasian eagle-owl

*Bubo bubo*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Aves, Order Strigiformes, Family Strigidae

Description: One of the largest owls in the world, has large ear tufts, mostly brown-black coloration, facial disc is marked with black, gray, and white, has white throat



Map from TheOwlPages.com



Photo by Johan Spaedtke

Habitat: Found in rocky, open areas, mountains, edges of forests (Kang, 2013)

Diet: Mostly small mammals such as rabbits, hamsters, hedgehogs, few birds, small proportion of lizards (Sandor and Ionescu, 2009)

Geographic range: Widespread in Spain, eastern Europe, Asia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, also found in northern Iran and Pakistan, native in Croatia

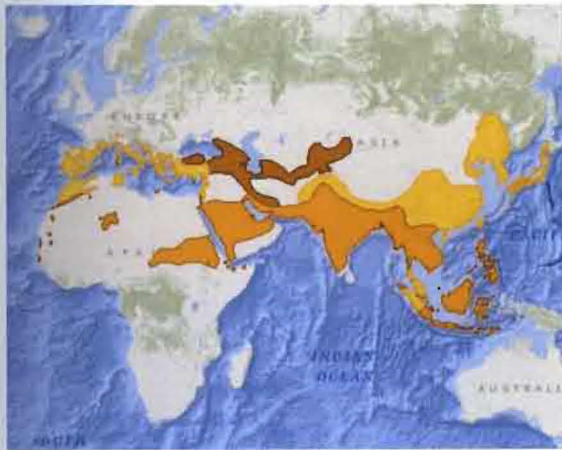


## Blue rock thrush

*Monticola solitarius*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata; Class Aves, Order Passeriformes, Family Muscicapidae

Description: Dark blue with dark wings, females can have brown feathers on belly and back (Bird Ecology Study Group, 2008)



Map from IUCN Red List



Photo by Juan Lacruz

Habitat: Breed on limestone cliffs, located in rocky areas, sometimes found in cities with many concrete buildings

Diet: Insects, snails, berries

Geographic range: India, southeast Asia, northeast Africa, southern Europe, especially coastal regions, native in Croatia

## Grass snake

*Natrix natrix*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Reptilia,  
Order Squamata, Family Natricidae

Description: Blue-gray skin on back,  
brighter blue on belly, may have  
parallel rows of small black spots  
down back, dorsoventral black  
bands, non-venomous



Map by B. Kimmel



Photo by Bernie

Habitat: Open spaces with sunlight,  
access to basking areas, close to  
dense vegetation for protection  
(Reading and Jofre, 2009)

Diet: Frogs, small mammals, fish,  
occasionally birds (Gregory and  
Isaac, 2004)

Geographic range: Found in northern  
Africa up to Scandinavia,  
widespread throughout Europe, native  
in Croatia

# Nose-horned viper

*Vipera ammodytes*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Reptilia,  
Order Squamata, Family Viperidae

Description: Venomous, ranges from  
25 cm to 3 meters long, grayish-  
brown body with dark black zigzag  
pattern down back and spots down  
sides, prominent horn on nasal area  
(Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica,  
2015)



Map by R. B. Rausse



Photo by Benny Trapp

Habitat: Rocky, dry areas, cultivated  
areas such as vineyards, hillsides,  
woodlands, shrubs, stone walls

Diet: Small mammals, frogs, lizards  
(Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica,  
2015)

Geographic range: From northern  
Italy eastward to Romania and south  
to Greece, native in Croatia



## Greater horseshoe bat

*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Mammalia,  
Order Chiroptera, Family  
Rhinolophidae

Description: Fur on back is brown  
with darker tips, belly fur lighter  
colored, skin surrounding nostrils is  
horseshoe-shaped

Habitat: Woodlands, Mediterranean  
shrublands, pastures, roosts in  
caves, warm underground spaces,  
occasionally buildings or attics in  
the summer

Diet: Beetles, moths, other insects

Geographic range: North Africa to  
southern Europe and east to southwest  
Asia, the Middle East, southeast China,  
Korea, Japan, native in Croatia



Photo by Guray Tayyar



Map from IUCN Red List



## Savi's pipistrelle

*Pipistrellus savii*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Mammalia,  
Order Chiroptera, Family  
Vespertilionidae

Description: Black wings and tail, light  
colored fur on belly, darker fur on  
back

Habitat: Forages over open areas  
such as woodlands and pastures,  
near lights that attract insects, roosts  
in rock crevices, occasionally  
between stone buildings, rarely  
underground

Diet: Insects

Geographic range: Southern Europe  
and north Africa, through Turkey,  
Afghanistan, southern Turkmenistan,  
Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, and small  
population in Kazakhstan, native in  
Croatia



Photo from UniProt Consortium



Map from IUCN Red List

# BRIJUNI

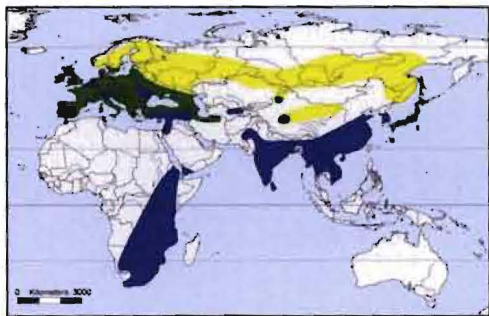
## Common buzzard

*Buteo buteo*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Aves, Order Accipitriformes, Family Accipitridae

Description: Medium-sized bird of prey, mostly brown plumage, but can be variable - reddish-brown, white, or blackish-brown plumage, feathers darker on back than on belly (Wildscreen Arkive, 2015)

Geographic range: Widespread throughout all of Europe, southwest Asia, southern Russia, parts of the Middle East, southern Africa, native in Croatia



Map by GROMS



Photo by Ken Billington



Photo by Martin Lofgren

Habitat: Nests in areas with tree cover, inhabits forests or mixed forest/open areas

Diet: Small mammals, sometimes invertebrates

## Collared pratincole

*Glareola pratincola*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Aves, Order Charadriiformes, Family Glareolidae

Description: Small bird with long wings and deeply forked tail (European Commission, 2015), has distinctive black band through eyes, down cheeks, and around throat like a collar, feathers on back brownish-gray, white belly, wings and tail dark or black, underside of wings rust-colored, bill is short and hooked, black with red base (Wildscreen Arkive, 2015)

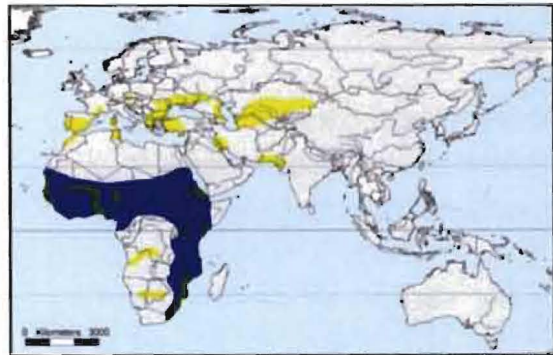
Habitat: Forages on flat, open areas with some low shrubs, near water

Diet: Large insects, spiders, mollusks

Geographic range: Spotty distribution along coastal areas from Spain to Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, bordering Black Sea, populations in Turkey, southwest Asia, central and eastern Africa, native in Croatia



Photo by Ferran Pestana



Map by GROMS



## Common nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Aves, Order  
Passeriformes, Family Muscicapidae

Description: Medium-sized bird,  
broad tail, short wings, light/dull  
brown in coloration, lighter belly color  
(RSPB, n.d.)

Habitat: Open woodlands with  
dense vegetation and thickets, near  
water, in undergrowth of woodlands  
(Wildscreen Arkive, 2015)

Diet: Mostly invertebrates,  
occasionally berries and seeds in  
summer and fall

Geographic range: Widespread in  
Europe from Spain east to Turkey and  
southwest Asia, population band  
through central Africa, native in Croatia



Photo by Chris Romeiks



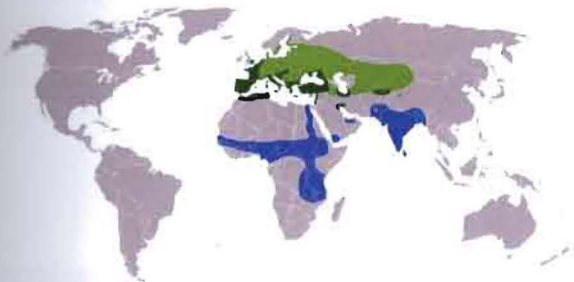
Map from IUCN Red List

## Eurasian/Western marsh harrier

*Circus aeruginosus*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Aves, Order  
Accipitriformes, Family Accipitridae

Description: Large bird of prey with  
long, narrow tail, long legs, color  
variable but mostly brown, females  
have cream-colored crown and throat,  
males have gray wings and dark  
brown body (Wildscreen Arkive,  
2015)



Light green = breeding, dark green =  
resident, blue = winter  
Map from Wikipedia.org



Photo by Artur Mikolajewski



Photo by Dayananda

Geographic range: From Spain east  
to Russia and south to central Asia  
and India, central and southeast  
Africa, native in Croatia

Habitat: Dense marsh vegetation,  
areas with brackish water

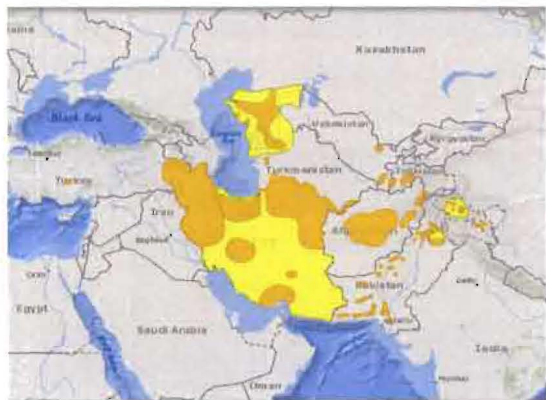
Diet: Small birds and mammals

## Cyprian wild sheep

*Ovis orientalis orientalis*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Mammalia,  
Order Cetartiodactyla, Family  
Bovidae

Description: Have two large horns that curve backward away from face, coat is reddish brown on back and white on belly, have black stripe on flanks, legs have black markings, short tail (WAZA, n.d.)



Map from IUCN Red List



Photo by Jorg Hempel

Habitat: Arid areas such as grasslands, some woodlands and agricultural fields

Diet: Grasses, shrubs, grains

Geographic range: Iran and western Uzbekistan, scattered distribution in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, introduced in Croatia

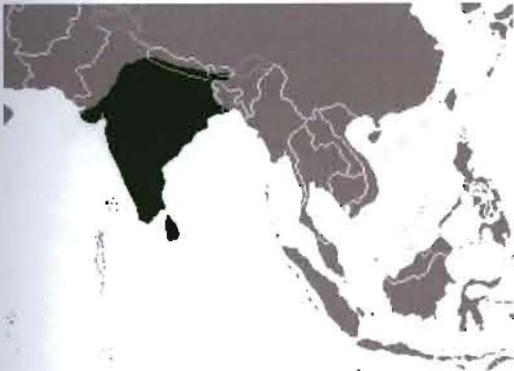


# Chital

*Axis axis*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Mammalia, Order Cetartiodactyla, Family Cervidae

Description: Large deer with reddish-brown coat, white spots, and white belly, males have three-pronged antlers that are shed annually (The Animal Files, 2014)



Map by Duckworth et al. and IUCN Red List



Photo by Altaipanther

Habitat: Moist and dry forests near grasslands, coastal dry evergreen forests and mixed forests

Diet: Many types of plants including fallen leaves, flowers, fruits, crabs, mushrooms, rarely bark

Geographic range: Found in India and southern Nepal near Nepal/India border, introduced in Croatia

# KORNATI

Green toad

*Pseudepidalea viridis*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Amphibia,  
Order Anura, Family Bufonidae

Description: Gray-brown skin on  
back, lighter on belly, covered in  
asymmetric green spots on back

Habitat: Forests, scrublands,  
grasslands, alpine areas, occasionally  
urban areas, breeds in ponds, lakes,  
swamps, wet areas

Diet: Insects, invertebrates, butterflies,  
moths, earthworms (Wikipedia, 2015)



Map by IUCN Red List



Photo by Richard Bartz

Geographic range: Widespread in  
eastern Europe from Germany south  
to Greece, east to Russia and south to  
the Black Sea, native in Croatia

## Dalmation wall lizard

*Podarcis melisellensis*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Reptilia,  
Order Squamata, Family Lacertidae

Description: Can be either yellow,  
orange, or white on belly, have  
parallel rows of spots down sides,  
sometimes skin on back is solid  
green



Photo by Jadvinia



Map from IUCN Red List

Habitat: Dry areas and in scrubs,  
woodlands, pastures, can be found in  
rocky areas and on stone walls

Diet: Arthropods, including insects  
(Valakos, 1986)

Geographic range: Mediterranean  
and sub-Mediterranean areas,  
northern Italy down through Croatia  
and Albania, present on many  
Adriatic islands, native in Croatia



## Four-lined snake

*Elaphe quatuorlineata*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Reptilia,  
Order Squamata, Family Colubridae

Description: Light brown skin on back,  
cream on belly, dark or black lines  
down length of body, black stripe  
from eye to base of mouth

Habitat: Open and cultivated areas  
such as vineyards, open woodlands,  
edges of woodlands, shrubby rocky  
areas

Diet: Rodents, mainly mice and rats,  
some lizards, few birds (Capizzi et  
al., 1995)

Geographic range: Mediterranean  
and sub-Mediterranean zones,  
southern Italy, along Adriatic coastline  
to Greece, native in Croatia



Photo by Carlo Catoni



Map by R. B. Rausse

## European shag

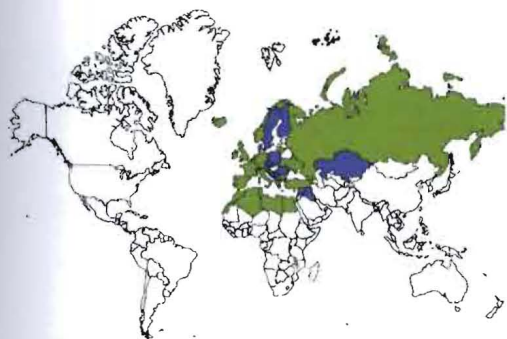
*Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Aves, Order  
Suliformes, Family Phalacrocoracidae

Description: Body entirely black,  
yellow patches on cheeks, prominent  
crest of black feathers on head, long  
neck, short tail (Wikipedia, 2015)

Habitat: Rocky coasts, sheltered  
fishing grounds, do not fly far from  
land

Diet: fish



Map by IUCN Red List

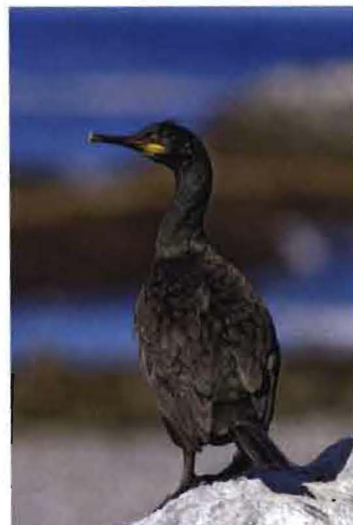


Photo by Andreas Trepte



Photo by Andrew Easton

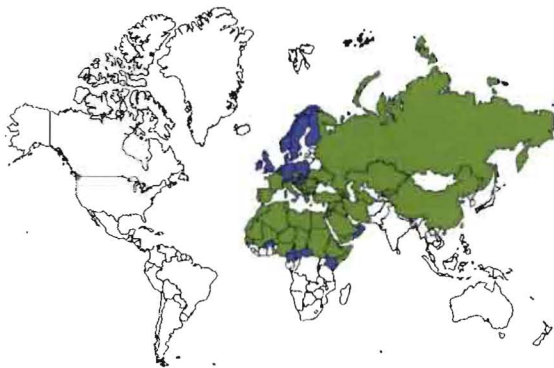
Geographic range: Widespread  
along entire European coast from  
Finland to Morocco, along  
Mediterranean and Adriatic coasts,  
around Black Sea, parts of coast of  
northern Africa, native in Croatia

# Black-eared wheatear

*Oenanthe hispanica*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Aves, Order Passeriformes, Family Muscicapidae

Description: Male has black wings, tail, and face, light rust-colored feathers on crown of head and down back, cream-colored on belly feathers, some males may have black throat; female has tan head and back, brown to dark brown wings and tail, cream colored belly (Oiseaux-birds, n.d.)



Map by IUCN Red List



Photo by Georges Oliosio

Habitat: open, rocky, dry areas, architectural ruins and stone walls (Oiseaux-birds, n.d.)

Diet: Insects, spiders, mollusks, seeds, berries

Geographic range: Spain, Morocco, northern Algeria, southern France, patchy distribution in Italy, down Adriatic coast from northwest Italy to Greece, east through Turkey and parts of Middle East, population band through north-central Africa, native in Croatia



# Common bent-wing bat

*Miniopterus schreibersii*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Mammalia,  
Order Chiroptera, Family  
Vestertilionidae

Description: Brown fur on back,  
belly fur a bit lighter brown, wings  
brown

Geographic range: North Africa and  
southwest Europe east through Italy  
and through Middle East, native in  
Croatia



Map by Kohl and Kurth



Photo by Igor Borsic



Photo by Marko Konig

Habitat: Forages in open and  
sometimes suburban areas, roosts in  
caves and mines

Diet: Moths, occasionally flies

# BRAC

## Lesser horseshoe bat

*Rhinolophus hipposideros*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Mammalia,  
Order Chiroptera, Family  
Rhinolophidae

Description: Very small bat, fur is  
gray and long, fur on back has  
brownish-gray tint, has characteristic  
horseshoe-shaped skin surrounding  
nostrils (Fisher et al., 2005)



Map from IUCN Red List



Photo by Sebastien Krickx

Habitat: Sheltered valleys, forest  
edges, wetlands and pastures,  
forages in woodlands, roosts in  
rock crevices (Fisher et al., 2005)

Diet: Mainly flies and gnats (Fisher  
et al., 2005)

Geographic range: Widespread  
throughout all European countries and  
islands in Mediterranean region, small  
range in northern and eastern Africa,  
native in Croatia

## Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Mammalia,  
Order Chiroptera, Family  
Vespertilionidae

Description: Small bat, fur on back is  
dark brown, belly fur pale, ears short  
and rounded, wing membranes  
opaque (Fisher et al., 2005)

Habitat: Semi-open areas such as  
farmlands, open woodlands, gardens,  
lakes, large hedgerows, roosts in trees  
and cracks in buildings (Fisher et al.,  
2005)

Diet: Mostly flies and gnats, some  
aquatic insects (Fisher et al., 2005)

Geographic range: From  
Scandinavia down through most of  
Europe, including Mediterranean  
countries, northwest Africa, southwest  
Asia, native in Croatia



Photo by Milos Andera



Map by Carlosblh



## European glass lizard

### *Pseudopus apodus*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Reptilia,  
Order Squamata, Family Anguidae

Description: Limbless, skin on back is brown to dark brown, belly is lighter, may have subtle striped or speckled pattern down back (The Reptile Database, n.d.)

Geographic range: From Greece up through Croatia including the islands, parts of Middle East (Encyclopedia of Life, n.d.)



Map by Google Maps and TDWG



Photo from The Reptile Database



Photo by Daniel Jablonski

Habitat: Open areas such as grasslands and sparsely wooded hills, dry habitats (Encyclopedia of Life, n.d.)

Diet: Snails and slugs, some arthropods and small mammals (Encyclopedia of Life, n.d.)

# Balkan green lizard

*Lacerta trilineata*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Reptilia,  
Order Squamata, Family Lacertidae

Description: About 30 cm long,  
males are bright emerald green with  
black and yellow spots on back,  
throat blue, skin on belly yellow in  
males and pale yellow or greenish in  
females, female color is variable  
(WAZA, n.d.)



Map from Wikimedia.org



Photo by Kiril Kapustin



Photo by  
Matthieu Sontag

Geographic range: Coastal Croatia,  
east through Bulgaria, south through  
western Turkey and Greece, found on  
many Mediterranean and Balkan  
islands, native in Croatia

Habitat: Dry, Mediterranean areas,  
areas with bushes, sand dunes, rock  
walls, orchards, can be found near  
streams

Diet: Insects, other invertebrates

# Turkish gecko

*Hemidactylus turcicus*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia,  
Phylum Chordata, Class Reptilia,  
Order Squamata, Family  
Gekkonidae

Description: Skin on back is pinkish-gray with dark spots that form transverse rows, tail has dark and light bands (Encyclopedia of Life, n.d.)

Habitat: Shrubland and rocky areas, coastal cliffs, salt marshes, caves, stone walls, sometimes in urban areas on buildings

Diet: Insects, spiders, small invertebrates (Encyclopedia of Life, n.d.)

Geographic range: Along coast of Croatia, parts of coast of Greece, on Crete and other Mediterranean islands, northwestern Africa, western and southern Turkey down to northern Egypt, native in Croatia



Photo by Tom Brennan



Map by Osado



## Edible dormouse

*Glis glis*

Classification: Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata, Class Mammalia, Order Rodentia, Family Gliridae

Description: Small to medium-sized rodent, bushy tail, largest of the dormouse species - around 175 mm long, gray fur, white belly (Fitzke, 2014)

Habitat: Woodlands, specifically in the canopy of deciduous trees, shrubs of rocky coastal areas, cultivated areas such as gardens and orchards, enters buildings

Diet: Beech nuts, hazelnuts, acorns, berries and apples, leaves and flowers, occasionally insects, fungi, moss, invertebrates (Fitzke, 2014)



Photo from ChampBoyer.com

Geographic range: Widespread throughout Europe to northern Turkey, northern Iran and Turkmenistan, found on many Mediterranean islands, some populations in central Russia, native in Croatia



Map by U. Schroter

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